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## COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #560 August 8, 2013

### July 2013 Incident Reports from WorkSafeBC

These reports, which are summaries of workplace incidents, serve as a valuable reminder of the need for workplace health and safety.

The reports are useful for Toolbox Talks, Health & Safety Committee discussions, and especially for the orientation of new workers.

**Please feel free to post the information on your Safety Bulletin Boards.**

This Report covers incidents that occurred in the month of July 2013.

**Injury:** Multiple fractures of leg

**Industry:** Construction, Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Metallic & Mineral Products

**Core Activity:** Boiler removal

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

During the disassembly and removal of a cast-iron sectional boiler, the last standing section (weighing about 1,000 pounds) fell onto a worker, pinning his legs.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013145570134

**Injury:** Injuries to upper body, facial laceration, abrasion and bruising

**Industry:** Construction

**Core Activity:** Excavation work

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While a breakwater was being extended, the aggregate of the breakwater gave way, causing a 30-ton excavator to slide and flip over into the water. The operator jumped out of the cab, sustaining numerous injuries.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013154970255

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Site preparation for landfill and associated buildings  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An excavator was trying to pass below a low-voltage telecommunications line. The top of the excavator arm contacted the line with enough force to break and collapse the wooden utility pole, which was also carrying a 25-kV single-phase power line. The worker remained in the cab of the excavator until cleared to exit by the power utility company.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013161770199

**Injury:** Multiple wasp stings  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Fire and flood restoration  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker removing fire/water-damaged drywall from an apartment suite was stung multiple times by a swarm of wasps.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013173500013

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Excavation shoring  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An air track rock drill was installing soil anchors when it drilled into an electrical duct bank and damaged a live circuit (14.4-kV to ground).

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013122700187

**Injury:** Broken bones  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Framing and concrete foundation  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker was installing a joist hanger on a basement joist header. He lost his balance and fell through the opening between the header and a joist, landing on the basement floor (10 feet, 3 inches below).

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013117540237

**Injury:** Fractured ankle  
**Industry:** Construction, Public Sector  
**Core Activity:** Asphalt manufacture  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker was on the third rung of a 6-foot stepladder that was set up leaning against the side of a flatbed trailer. The worker slipped off the ladder and fell to the ground (about 3 feet).

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013165830153

**Injury:** Multiple fractures including ribs and leg  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Traffic control  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While traffic was reduced to one lane, a traffic control person (TCP) was struck by a pickup truck that failed to return to its original lane as directed by the TCP.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013157440113

**Injury:** Fractured ribs  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Stripping concrete  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker was bent over performing the task of rotating the handles of a worm gear designed to lower the manufactured forms structure/table. The table moved unexpectedly, causing a 6-foot-long piece of 4x6 timber located above to fall about 22 feet and strike the worker on his back.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013165410213

**Injury:** Pain (1 worker); visual disturbance (1 worker)  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Commercial construction  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A tower crane's load line contacted an electrical switch on an energized overhead power line (12.5-kV) in the rear alley of a worksite. A young worker (rigger) was holding the chains to the tower crane and received an electric shock.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013154890238

**Injury:** Fractured vertebrae

**Industry:** Construction, Manufacturing - All, Manufacturing - Metallic & Mineral Products

**Core Activity:** Measuring rough openings for manufacture of windows and doors

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A window installation estimator fell 11 feet, 3 inches onto a concrete floor when the interior wood-frame scaffold he was standing on collapsed.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013155270065

**Injury:** Close call

**Industry:** Construction, Public Sector

**Core Activity:** Water service line excavation

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While excavating to expose a municipal water service line for repair, an excavator contacted and ruptured a half-inch natural gas service line.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013157270191

**Injury:** Head laceration, arm injuries

**Industry:** Construction

**Core Activity:** Concrete formwork

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

Workers were using a manual pallet jack to move a stack of scaffold end-frames onto the crane landing platform. The forks of the pallet jack were not long enough to adequately support the load and the stacked end-frames were not secured before the load was moved onto the crane landing platform. As the load was being pushed onto the crane landing platform, four end-frames fell from level 19 to level 16, striking a worker.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013117080224

**Injury:** Fatal (1 worker); upper body strains (1 worker)

**Industry:** Construction, Services (NES), Trucking

**Core Activity:** Driving

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

At an intersection, a pickup truck collided with a loaded dump truck. The driver of the pickup truck sustained fatal injuries.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013124800208

**Injury:** Fractured arm, vertebra  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Power-washing in preparation for painting  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While setting up fall protection, a young worker fell from the top surface of an exterior elevator tower of a townhouse building. The worker struck a walkway railing before falling onto the walkway, located at the third-floor level (about 13 feet from the top surface).

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013147230106

**Injury:** Fractured vertebrae  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Condo construction  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While standing on the 4th or 5th rung of an 8-foot wooden stepladder, pulling armoured electrical cable through the overhead metal framework, a new and young worker fell backwards off the ladder onto the wooden floor.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013165810183

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Concrete forming  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A section of an engineered shotcrete wall about 30 feet long by 5 feet high collapsed unwitnessed after normal working hours.

**Posted:** 2013-Aug-01 **ID:** 2013154960249

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Single family, wood frame construction  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A 1/2-inch residential gas line was struck by a mini-excavator during construction of a 4-foot-high retaining wall.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-19 **ID:** 2013166920174

**Injury:** Soft-tissue injuries, lacerations  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Preparation and painting of home exterior  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker fell about 12 feet from an unsecured extension ladder while completing painting tasks to the exterior of a 2-storey home. The worker landed on pea gravel and landscaped ground, sustaining minor injuries.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-19 **ID:** 2013171890233

**Injury:** Fatal (1 worker); chest and back pain (1 worker)  
**Industry:** Construction, Trucking  
**Core Activity:** Driving  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A pickup truck collided head-on with an oncoming semi truck. The driver of the pickup truck was fatally injured; the driver of the semi truck sustained injuries requiring medical attention.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013173540051

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Demolition  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An excavator contacted a guide wire for an utility pole, causing the pole to fail and allowing the 69-kV lines to contact ground.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013163710178

**Injury:** Multiple injuries  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Construction of electrical transmission tower  
**Location:** Interior B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An electrical transmission tower was under construction. A section of it collapsed when a component of a securing guyline assembly failed. A worker atop the tower and attached by fall arrest equipment rode the structure to the ground.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-19 **ID:** 2013108490210

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Low slope roofing  
**Location:** Interior B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

Two workers - one of them a young worker - were installing a metal drip edge on the roof of a commercial building. The workers slid the drip edge past the corner of the building to determine where it needed to be cut. The end of the drip edge contacted a 14.4-kV power line, causing an arc to the building. No injuries occurred, but the employer took the workers to the hospital for a checkup. See a [slide show](#) that illustrates how dangerous working around power lines can be.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013163800683

**Injury:** Possible concussion  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Formwork  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While workers were assembling formwork for a slab, the formwork became unstable and collapsed onto a worker.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013163710174

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Excavation  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

While excavating a blast site, a backhoe contacted a shock tube. The contact resulted in a detonation.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-19 **ID:** 2013154970225

**Injury:** Suspected broken wrist  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Siding installation  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A siding installer noted that his fellow worker was on a ladder jack plank where one of the rung locks on one ladder were not engaged. As he tried to adjust the lock, with the second worker still on the plank, the ladder released and the platform collapsed, causing the worker to fall about 9 feet to the ground.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-19 **ID:** 2013161290286

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Belling of auger holes to be used for piles  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An excavator with a pile-driving attachment tipped onto the counterweight side when the track sunk into soft ground.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013165800135

**Injury:** Head injury, broken arm  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Painting a house exterior  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker fell from ladder to a paved driveway while painting an area about 16 feet above grade.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013162000244

**Injury:** Forehead laceration  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Rock drilling  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

The operator of a mobile rock drill was re-adjusting the location of the rock drill when it slid sideways down a short rock embankment, landing on its right side. The operator was wearing his seatbelt and sustained only a minor injury.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013136960307

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Grade preparation with mini-excavator  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A mini-excavator equipped with a bucket was removing concrete debris and disturbing the ground surface. It contacted and damaged an underground energized, three-phase, 480-volt (200-amp) cable, supplying electrical power to a tower crane.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013161950176



**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Renovations  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

During the renovation of a restaurant, a gas furnace was being removed. Upon disconnecting the gas line to the furnace, it was discovered that the gas had not been shut off at the meter.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013128230254

**Injury:** Lacerated finger  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Cutting reinforcing steel as part of building demolition  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

A worker was struck by a piece of a hand grinder's abrasive wheel (4.5 inches in diameter) that exploded as the worker placed the grinder on the ground.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013161290279

**Injury:** Close call  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Demolition  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

During the demolition of a church, it was determined that the main power to the building was still on. Demolition was stopped and the area was evacuated.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-26 **ID:** 2013163710169

**Injury:** Bruising/soreness of upper body  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Core Activity:** Road construction  
**Location:** Northern B.C.  
**Date of Incident:** 2013-Jul

An excavator flopped onto its side when its tracks slid down some rock during ground preparation work. As the main access door was blocked, the recently installed secondary means of escape was used to remove the operator from the machine.

**Posted:** 2013-Jul-12 **ID:** 2013139050082